

## Lesson 33

# **God Calls Abram**

Abram had faith and obeyed God.

# Studying God's Word

## Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, [Lesson Flip Chart \(PDF\)](#), and any items you prepared for this lesson.

## Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the [Prayer Page](#) in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of adoration—and tell God we love him.

I'll start. Dear God, I love you and praise you. You are. . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration  
I'm sorry prayers—Confession  
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving  
Please prayers—Supplication

## Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God is in control of everything? Sovereign.  
What is the bad news we learn from the Bible? All have sinned.  
What is the good news we learn from the Bible? Jesus saves sinners.  
What word means God cannot sin, and he hates all sin? Holy.

## Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word), you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. Begin the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

K-1st Lesson continues next. Pre-K Lesson follows.

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **K-1st Lesson**

### **Pre-K Lesson**

### **Review**

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Refer to Lesson 32 Flip Chart. Last time we talked about a man named Job. What happened to Job, do you remember? Allow discussion.

God had given Job many blessings. He had sons and daughters; lots of animals like camels, sheep, and donkeys; and many servants. But God allowed all of them to be taken away.

Did Job get angry with God? What did Job do when these things were taken from him? No. He prayed and worshipped God.

Yes. Job trusted God even though he didn't know why all of these things were happening to him. He knew that God could give good things and take them all away. But Job still praised God because he knew that God is good and he could trust him.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart (PDF) to keep the children engaged.

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. Today, we are going to talk about another man who also trusted God. This man's name was Abram.

## God Calls Abram

God told Abram to do something that was pretty hard and kind of scary. You see, Abram was supposed to leave his home, his friends, and his family and move away!

How many of you have ever moved to a different house in a different town? Allow discussion.

Sometimes moving to a new place can be scary. But if your family ever moves, I'm sure you can trust your parents to take you to a good place. Right?

Well, it was kind of like that for Abram, too. God didn't tell Abram exactly where he was going. God said he would show Abram where to go. Abram just had to go!

Let's see what that's like to follow someone when you don't know where you're going. I need a volunteer. Blindfold one student and lead him or her around the room, guiding around tables and chairs. Give other students a turn as time allows.

So what was it like following me when you didn't know where I would lead you? Was it hard to have faith in me? Or did you trust me to guide you around the tables and chairs? Allow answers.

It can be hard to have faith in a person because people can fail. There might have been times when you bumped into a table or chair when I led you.

But God never fails, and Abram had complete faith in God. He trusted God to take him to the right place. Abram obeyed even though he didn't know where God was leading him.

## God Gives Promises to Abram

God was going to do some very special things for Abram in this new place. God made some promises to Abram. We're going to count the promises as we go.

Put up one finger. Promise number 1. God promised that Abram's family—his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren—would become a great nation. There would be many of them.

Hold up another finger. Promise number 2. God said he would bless Abram and make his name great. That means people would know who Abram was, and God would give him many blessings and good things.

Hold up another finger. Now for promise number 3. God would bless Abram, but Abram would also be a blessing to others.

Put up one more finger. Promise number 4 was extra special. God promised that all the families in the world would be blessed through Abram.

That means someone in Abram's family would be born many years later to bless lots of people by dying on the cross for sinners. Who do you think God was talking about? Jesus!

That's right! Now Abram did not get to see some of these promises come true because they didn't happen until many years later. But we know that they did happen because the Bible tells us so—and that's the truth. But Abram had faith in God and knew God would do everything he said he'd do.

## **Abram Obeys by Faith**

So when God asked Abram to do a hard thing by moving away to a place he didn't know much about, what do you think Abram did? Allow discussion.

Genesis 12:5

Let's find out if Abram obeyed God. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to where the sticky note is. Read Genesis 12:5.

Did Abram obey God? Yes!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes, Abram obeyed and packed up and moved.

Who went with Abram? Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his nephew.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

The Bible says that Abram went just like the Lord told him to. He packed up his things and took his wife and his nephew and headed out to wherever God would lead him. Abram had faith in God, and he obeyed. What does that mean that he had faith in God? Allow discussion.

Faith is a hard word to explain. When you have faith in God, it means you trust him to do what he said he would do.

Some of you were blindfolded earlier, and you had to trust me to lead you around the tables and chairs so you wouldn't bump into them. You had faith that I would lead you. Faith is believing and trusting someone.

Refer to the Flip Chart. That's what Abram had—faith in God. And because Abram had faith in God, it made it easier to obey him. Abram knew God would keep his promises and show him where to go. So by faith Abram packed up and left his home, and God led him to a land called Canaan.

Now the Bible also says that Abram trusted God to take him to heaven someday. God says in his Word that those who have faith in him and believe in his Son, Jesus, will also go to heaven with him forever. We can have that same faith when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **K-1st Lesson**

### **Review**

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Refer to Lesson 32 Flip Chart. Last time we talked about a man named Job. What happened to Job, do you remember? Allow discussion.

God had given Job many blessings. He had sons and daughters; lots of animals like camels, sheep, and donkeys; and many servants. But God allowed all of them to be taken away.

Did Job get angry with God? What did Job do when these things were taken from him? No. He prayed and worshipped God.

Yes. Job trusted God even though he didn't know why all of these things were happening to him. He knew that God could give good things and take them all away. But Job still praised God because he knew that God is good and he could trust him.

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. Today, we are going to talk about another man who also trusted God. This man's name was Abram, but later on, God changed his name to Abraham. Who's heard of him? Raise your hand if you've heard of Abraham. Show of hands.

Abram started out in one place, and God told him to move. Let's find out what happened.

### **God Calls Abram**

This true story of Abram is in Genesis 12, and some of the verses we'll read are from our memory verse! Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to where the sticky note is.

Genesis 12:1

God told Abram to do something that was pretty hard and kind of scary. Listen very carefully to Genesis 12:1 and tell me what it was. Read the verse.

What did the Lord tell Abram to do? Go from your country. Leave your kindred (relatives). Leave your father's house.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart (PDF) to keep the children engaged.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart (PDF). Wow! Abram was supposed to leave his home, his friends, and his family and move away!

How many of you have ever moved to a different house in a different town? Allow discussion.

Sometimes moving to a new place can be scary. But when each of you moved, I'm sure you trusted your parents to take you to a good place. Right?

Well, God didn't tell Abram exactly where he was going. God said he would show Abram where to go. Abram just had to go!

Let's see what that's like to follow someone when you don't know where you're going. I need two volunteers. Choose two students. Blindfold one student and have the other student lead him around the room, guiding around tables and chairs. Give other students a turn as time allows. So what was it like following someone when you didn't know where you would be led? Was it hard to have faith in the person who led you? Or did you trust them to guide you around the tables and chairs? Allow answers.

It can be hard to have faith in a person because people can fail. But God never fails, and Abram had complete faith in God. He trusted God to take him to the right place. Abram obeyed even though he didn't know where God was leading him.

## **God Gives Promises to Abram**

God was going to do some very special things for Abram in this new place. God made some promises to Abram. Let's read about them.

Genesis 12:2

Listen so you can tell me what those promises were. Read Genesis 12:2 emphasizing great nation, bless you, make your name great, you will be a blessing.

What did God promise Abram? Tell me the first thing. Reread the first promise from verse 2. God would make him a great nation.

God promised that Abram's family—his children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren—would become a great nation. We will hear more about that later on.

What about the next promise? Listen to that one again. Reread the second promise from verse 2. God would bless Abram and make his name great.

God said he would bless Abram and make his name great. Many people would know who Abram was, and he would receive many blessings from God.

Now listen to the next promise. Reread the third promise from verse 2. Abram would be a blessing.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

So God would bless Abram, but Abram would also be a blessing to others. And then God said all the families in the world would be blessed through Abram.

That means someone in Abram's family would be born many years later to bless lots of people by dying on the cross for sinners. Who do you think God was talking about? Jesus!

Yes! Jesus would be part of Abram's family. He would be a blessing to all families by making a way for sinners to be forgiven.

God promised to make Abram a great nation. He promised to bless Abram and make his name great. And God said that Abram would be a blessing and through his family, the Savior would be born. How exciting!

## **Abram Obeys by Faith**

Now Abram did not get to see some of these promises come true because they didn't happen until many years later. But we know that they did happen because the Bible tells us so—and that's the truth. But Abram had faith in God and knew God would do everything he said he'd do. So when God asked Abram to do a hard thing by moving away to a place he didn't know much about, Abram trusted God and obeyed.

Genesis 12:5

Let's read some more. Listen to what Abram did. Read Genesis 12:5 emphasizing Sarai, Lot, and possessions.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Who went with Abram? Sarai, his wife, and Lot, his nephew.

What else did Abram take with him? All his possessions and servants.

The Bible says that Abram went just like the Lord told him to. He packed up his things and took his wife and his nephew and headed out to wherever God led him. Abram had faith in God, and he obeyed.

Do you know a really neat thing about the Bible? Sometimes you read about something here at the very beginning, and then you read about the same thing way back here toward the end. We read about Abram in the Old Testament—right here. Then, we hear about him again in the New Testament way back here! Show both sections in your Bible.

We first read about Abram in the book of Genesis, but then the book of Hebrews tells us more about him. It says that Abram was a great man. And it also tells us why Abram was able to do what God told him to do even though it was really hard.

Hebrews 11:8

Listen to this verse from Hebrews. This verse calls him Abraham because later on God changed his name. Read Hebrews 11:8 emphasizing "by faith" and "not knowing where he was going."

What did Abram have that helped him go where God wanted him to go? Abram obeyed by what? Faith!



Yes. Abram had faith in God. What does that mean that he had faith in God? Allow discussion.

Faith is a hard word to explain. When you have faith in God, it means you trust him to do what he said he would do.

Some of you were blindfolded earlier, and you had to trust somebody to lead you around the tables and chairs so you wouldn't run into them. You had faith that your guide would lead you. That's faith—believing and trusting someone.

Refer to the Flip Chart. That's what Abram had—faith in God. And because Abram had faith in God, it made it easier to obey him. Abram knew God would keep his promises and show him where to go. So by faith Abram packed up and left his home, and God led him to a land called Canaan.

Now if we read a little further, the Bible also says that Abram trusted God to take him to heaven someday. God says in his Word that those who have faith in him and believe in his Son, Jesus, will also go to heaven with him forever. We can have that same faith when we turn away from our sins and turn to Jesus and trust him to save us from the punishment of sin.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

## **Lesson Review**

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## **Basket Toss**

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

### **Materials**

Review Questions  
Two beanbags  
Three laundry baskets or boxes  
Masking tape

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a

chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

## **Board Game**

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

### **Materials**

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

## **Bible Baseball**

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

### **Materials**

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## **Bowling**

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

### **Materials**

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

### **Instructions**

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

## **Goofy Golf**

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### **Materials**

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

## Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team’s basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team’s turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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